disciplines viz., Engineering, Soil Science, Geology, Hydrology, etc.

[English]

Study on Environmental Hazardous

1589. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank Team has conducted a study about the Environmental hazardous in the major cities in India; and

(b) if so, the recommendations of the study team; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank team has conducted a study entitled "The Cost of Inaction: Valuing the Economy-wise Cost of Environmental Degradation in India".

(b) The study has not made specific recommendations.

(c) Does not arise.

Excessive use of Urea

1590. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the quality of land has declined due to excessive use of the urea by farmers on account of non-availability of phosphatic and potassium fertilizers; and

(b) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No such reports have been received by any SAU/ICAR Institute. The average national consumption of Urea Fertilizer is 50 kg per hectare only while in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. it is 150 kg, 100 kg and 77 kg, respectively. The results of the permanent fertilizer trial (1971-87) indicate that there was no perceptible change in soil PH in neutral and alkaline soils of Punjab, Haryana and U.P.

(b) The following remedial measures are taken/ proposed to be taken:-

1. for sustained crop productivity integrated nutrient management with balanced plan nutrition is being advocated. Govt. is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme-
   (i) Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers;
   (ii) National Project on Development of Fertiliser Use in Low consumption and Rainfed Area; and a Central Sector Scheme 'National Project and Technology Mission on Development and Use of Bio-Fertilisers.
2. Other approaches include the application of phospho-compost (compost charged with indigenous rock phosphate) recycling of crop residues, use of phosphate solubilizing biofertilizers.
3. In order to encourage the balanced use of fertilizers, concession on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has been considerably enhanced.

Visit of World Bank President

1591. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of the World Bank during his recent visit had a discussion with him;

(b) if so, the main areas of discussion;

(c) whether any new area regarding of financing for agriculture was discussed or finalised during the discussion; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank President had called on the Agriculture Minister on 18.10.1996.

(b) The main areas of discussion were-

(i) about 80% of our farmers are small and marginal farmers and that agricultural productivity in regard to the small and marginal holdings have to be raised and this can only be possible by taking science and technology to the field;

(ii) giving credit to the small and marginal farmers will go a long way to help increasing agricultural productivity;

(iii) irrigation - especially providing farmers with minor irrigation sources such as wells, Ponds, tubewells etc.,

(iv) building up of marketing infrastructure sector;

(v) for agricultural development there should be rural development, development of rural roads, opening of markets and empowerment of women;

(vi) incidental reference to input subsidies to agriculture and Government's commitment to it;